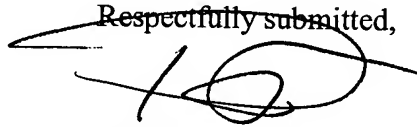


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to indicate that the application is a continuation application of co-pending reissue patent application no. 09/796,685, filed on February 28, 2001.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Jewik', written over a horizontal line.

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